belonging to us, without asking for it: this obliged us to set bounds to their desires; but we found that they returned to us, without the least resistance, such things as we could not dispense with for our own use.... I wished to get a kangaroo skin; among the savages about us there happened to be only a young girl who had one. When I proposed to her, to give [34] it me in exchange for a pair of pantaloons, she ran away to hide herself in the woods. The other natives appeared truly hurt at her refusal and called to her several times. At length she yielded to their entreaties, and came to bring me the skin.... She received a pair of pantaloons.... We showed her the manner of wearing them; notwithstanding, it was necessary for us to put them on for her ourselves. To this she yielded with the best grace in the world, resting both her hands on our shoulders, to support herself, while she lifted up first one leg, then the other, to put them into this new garment.... We invited them all to come and sit near our fire, and when they arrived there, one of the savages informed us by unequivocal signs, that he had come to reconnoitre us during the night. That we might understand he had seen us asleep, he inclined his head on one side, laying it on the palm of his right hand, and closing his eyes, and with the other, he pointed out the spot where we had passed the night. He then acquainted us, by signs equally expressive, that he was at the time on the other side of the brook, whence he observed us. ... We were desirous of showing these savages the effect of our fire-arms.... They appeared to be a little frightened at their report.'"

"They received with great joy the neck-cloths which we offered them: the young people approached nearer us; and one of them had the generosity to give me a few small shells of the whelk kind, pierced near the middle and strung like a necklace.... This ornament was the only one he possessed.... A handkerchief supplied the place of this present, gratifying the utmost wishes of my savage, who advanced towards me, that I might tie it round his head for him, and who expressed the greatest joy, as he lifted his hand up to feel it again and again.... The women were very desirous of coming nearer us; and though the men made signs to them, to keep at a distance, their curiosity was ready every moment to break through all other considerations. The gradual increase of confidence, however, that took place, obtained for them permission to approach.... A pole-axe which we used for cutting off some branches from the trees excited the admiration of these people. As they perceived us willing to give them anything in our possession, they did not scruple to beg it; and when we granted their request, they were overcome with joy. They were fully sensible also of the value of our knives, and received a few tin vessels with pleasure. When I showed them my watch, it attracted their desire, and one of them, in particular, expressed his wish to possess it: but he quickly desisted from his request, when he found I was not willing to part with it. The readiness with which we gave them our things led them, no doubt, to presume that they might take anything

"None of these people appeared with arms, but probably they had left them in the wood near; for several of us having expressed an intention of going into it, one of the savages urgently entreated them not to go that way. Part of the crew, however, walked a little way along the shore that they might enter the wood unobserved by him; but no sooner did one of the women perceive their design, than she uttered horrible cries, to give notice to the other savages, who entreated them to return towards the sea. Their confidence in us was so great, that one of the women, who was suckling a child, was not afraid to entrust it to several of us. When we departed for Port D'Entrecasteaux, more than half these peaceful natives rose to accompany us. Four young girls were also of the party, and who received with indifference the garments we gave them, and immediately hung them on the bushes near the path, intending, no doubt to take them with them on their return. As a proof they did not set much value on such presents, we did not see on any of them one of the garments which we had given them the day before. All of them were of very cheerful disposition. No doubt we lost much by not understanding the language of these natives, for one of the girls said a great deal to us; she talked a long while with extraordinary volubility, though she must have perceived that we could not comprehend her meaning; no matter, she must talk. One of the young girls having perceived at a distance a head, which the gunner of the "Espérance" had carved on the stump

of a tree, appeared at first extremely surprised, and stopped short for a moment. She then went up to it with us, and after having considered it attentively, named to us the different parts, pointing them out at the same time with her hand...."

1: Roth--36-37 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 516, 431

"We made them presents of a great number of things, which they let us hang round their necks with strings, and soon they were almost covered with them, apparently to their great satisfaction; but they gave us nothing, for they had brought nothing with them. A native, to whom we had just given a hatchet, displayed great dexterity at striking several times following the the same place, thus attempting to imitate one of our sailors, who had cut down a tree. We showed him that he must strike in different places, so as to cut a notch, which he did immediately, and was transported with joy when the tree was felled by his strokes. They were astonished at the quickness with which we sawed the trunk in two; and we made [37] them a present of some hand-saws, which they used with great readiness, as soon as we had shown them the way. [WEL: citing La Billardière, I, 181-211; 1792]."

"At other meetings ... [WEL: La Billardière] ch. xi. pp. 72-75... 'from time to time, they answered with shouts of joy the shouts of our sailors.... When we were but a little way from the beach, they advanced towards us without arms, their smiling countenances leaving us no room to doubt that our visit gave them pleasure. Their joy was expressed by loud bursts of laughter, while their countenances showed that they were well pleased to see us. These savages expressed much thankfulness when we gave them a few small pieces of stuffs of different colours, glass beads, a hatchet, and [38] some other aritcles of hardware. Several other savages came out of the wood and approached us. An officer imagined that he should not frighten them by letting them see the effects of our firearms; but they were alarmed at the report of the gun, immediately rose, and would not sit down again.... We expressed our wishes to see them [the wives and children] join us; the savages informed us that we should find them, after walking some time across the wood, in a path which they immediately took, inviting us to follow them. This we did; but it was not long before they expressed their desire to see us return towards our ships, and parted from us, frequently looking back to watch our motions. On my pronouncing the word quangloa, however, which signifies, will you come, they stopped, and I went up to them, with an officer of the 'Recherche.' They continued to lead us along the same path. In this way we walked on for a quarter of an hour, holding them by the arm, when on a sudden they quickened their pace, so that it was not easy for us to follow them farther. It

appeared to us that they wished we should leave them, for some of them would not allow us to hold them by the arm any longer, and walked by themselves, at some distance from us. One of our crew, desirous of rejoining one of the fugitives, ran after him, bawling; this alarmed all the rest, who immdeiately hastened away and kept at a considerable distance from us. No doubt they were desirous to reach the place where they had deposited their weapons; for they struck out of the path a little, and presently we saw them with three of four spears each, which they carried away. They then invited us to follow them, but we were not willing to go any farther.'"

"Péron continues, 'The young girl made herself more remarked every moment by the sweetness of her physiognomy and the equally amiable and spirituel expression of her looks; of a constitution much feebler than her brother and sister, she was more lively and passionate than they. M. Freycinet, who sat beside her, appeared to be more especially the object of her enticing ways, and the least experienced eye could have distinguished in the looks of this innocent pupil of nature that delicate shade which gives to simple playfulness a more serious and deliberate character. Even coquetry itself appeared to have been called to the aid of natural attractions. Having taken some charcoal in her hands, she in a moment made herself black enough to frighten one: what seemed most singular to us was the complacency with which this young girl appeared to regard us after this operation, and the confident air which this new ornament had spread over her face. While this was going on, the little children were imitating the grimaces and gestures of their parents, and nothing was more curious than to see these little negroes stamping their feet for joy at hearing our songs; they had unconsciously familiarized themselves with us, and towards the end of the interview, they made use of our notice as freely as if they had known us for a long time. Every little present we gave them filled them with pleasure, and redoubled their regard for us; altogether they appeared to us lively, frolicsome and mischievous. Ouré-Ouré had a rush bag of an elegant and peculiar

construction, which I very much desired to have, as this young girl also showed me some very amiable attentions. I ventured to ask her for her little bag; she immediately, without hesitation, put it into my hands, accompanying the gift with an obliging smile and some affectionate [sic] phrases, which I regretted to be unable to understand. In return, I offered her a handkerchief and a tomahawk, the use of which I showed her [41] brother, and which was a cause of astonishment and exclamation to the whole family. As night was approaching, we prepared to re-join our long boat; the old mother and the young woman with her children, except the biggest, remained in the hut; the others came with us; the path along which we walked bristled with shrubs and briars; our poor savages, being quite naked, seemed to have much to suffer from the scratches they received; we pitied Ourê-Ourê, but without appearing to perceive the numerous scratches which covered her thighs and stomach, she walked bravely in the middle of these thick brakes, chatting to M. Freycinet, without hope of making herself understood, getting angry at not being so, and at not being able to understand herself, accompanying her talk with enticing gestures and gracious smiles, which coquetry could not have rendered more expressive. In approaching our place of landing, we heard several musket shots, which caused great fright to our good companions, poor Ourê-Ourê, above all, was horribly afraid; her fears soon increased at the aspect of a numerous troop of our companions from the "Naturaliste" who came to meet us. After telling them of the good reception we had

met with at the hands of the aborigines, they hastened to load them with various presents; but nothing produced such a good effect as a long red feather which M. Breton gave to the young Ourê-Ourê; she jumped for joy, she called her father and brother, she cried she laughed, in a word she seemed intoxicated with pleasure and happiness. At last we boarded our two long boats. The good Van Diemen's Landers did not leave us for an instant, and when we pushed out, their sorrow showed itself in a most touching manner: they made signs for us to come and see them again; and as if to indicate the place to us, they lit a large fire on the little hillock of which I have spoken, and it seems they even passed the night there, for we saw a fire there until dawn. Thus ended our first interview with the inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land. All the details I have described are given with the most rigorous exactitude. The sweet confidence which the inhabitants had in us; the affectionate proof of good will which they lavished upon us, the sincerity of their demonstrations, the frankness of their manners, and the touching ingenousness of their caresses, all concurred in developing in us feelings of most tender interest.' (ibid. ch. xii. pp. 227-231)."

"Later on he [KS: Péron] says: 'On my return, I found that the little yawl of the "Géographe," having gone to fish on Bruny Island, the aborigines had appeared in large numbers, and that, loaded with [42] presents by our companions, they had passed the greater part of the day amongst them (ch. ii. p. 235). Early in the morning of the 31st of January, I landed on Bruny Island. I had already proceeded out of sight of the landing place, when, having rounded a big point, I perceived about twenty savages who were approaching me along the shore: I did not hesitate to retrace my steps, and in thus withdrawing met MM. Heirisson and Bellfin. They offered to return with me to the savages in order to open communications with them. We were already close to the troop, when, suddenly, it entered the forest and disappeared; without attempting to pursue the aborigines, which their agility would have rendered quite useless, we contented ourselves in calling them, showing them different objects, and, above all, in waving our handkerchiefs. At these signs of friendship the troop hesitated a moment, then stopped and decided to await us. We then discovered we had to do with women; there was not a single male amongst them. We were preparing to join them, when one of the oldest, separating herself from her companions, made a sign to us to stop and sit down by calling out loudly, médi-médi (sit down, sit down); she seemed also to beg us to lay aside our weapons, the sight of which frightened them. These preliminary conditions having been fulfilled, the women squatted on their heels, and from that moment appeared to abandon themselves without

reserve to the liveliness of their dispositions, all speaking at once, all questioning us at the same time, appearing often to criticize us and to be laughing at our expense; making, in a word, a thousand gestures and contortions as singular as they were varied. M. Bellefin began to sing, and accompanied himself with lively and animated gestures; the women were immediately silent, observing his gestures with as much attention as they seemed to give to his songs. As soon as a couplet was finished, some applauded by loud shouts, others laughed to splitting, while the younger, and no doubt more timid girls, remained silent, showing nevertheless, by their actions and the expression of their faces, their surprise and their satisfaction. Two or three young girls, of from 15 to 16 years of age, had in the expression of their countenances something most artless, affectionate, and sweet, as if the better qualities of the soul must exist, even in the midst of the savage tribe of the human race, as the especial appanage of youth. Amongst the elder women, some had a coarse and ignoble face; others, fewer in number, a wild and sullen look; but in all, one observed that air of uneasiness and dejection which misfortune and [43] servitude imprint on the forehead of every being who bears the yoke. One only had, among all her companions, preserved great confidence, with much cheerfulness and gaiety. After M. Bellefin had finished his song, she began to imitate his gestures and his tone of voice in a very original and funny way, which greatly amused her companions.

The deference we showed these women, and perhaps also the fresh charms which we owed to their cares, (1) seemed to increase their goodwill and their confidence in us; but nothing, however, could decide them to approach any nearer. At the least movement which we made, or seemed to make, to break the conditions imposed, they all jumped up in a hurry, and took to flight: in order, therefore, to enjoy their presence longer, we were obliged to conform entirely to their wishes. After having loaded them with presents and caresses [sic] we judged it time to return to the landing place; and our Van Diemen's Landers, appearing to be about to go in the same direction, the two troops started; but we were still obliged to give in to these inexorable women, and were condemned to walk along the flat shore, while they marched over the parallel sand-hills. Our route all the time was not less lively than our interview; and from the top of the sand-hills many pleasantries and enticements were sent to us, to which we endeavoured to respond as expressively as was possible. All at once, one of the women uttered a loud cry, which the others repeated with fright: they had discovered our small vessel and our companions. We tried to calm their fears; it was all useless, and the troop was already plunging into the forest

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"1. These women blackened the faces of their visitors."

when the woman, who almost alone had borne the responsibility of our interview, appeared to alter her mind. At her voice there was a movement of hesitation; she spoke for a moment or two to the others; but being, as it seemed to us, unable to persuade them to follow her, she descended alone from the sand-hills, and walking along the shore at some distance in front of us, with much assurance, and even with a kind of pride, she seemed to defy the timidity of her companions. The latter, in their turn, appeared ashamed of their weakness; little by little they became bolder, and decided at last to return to the shore. It was therefore with this numerous and singular escort that we arrived at our ships, near to which, by a chance difficult to foresee, all the husbands of these poor women had been assembled for some minutes. In spite of the most unequivocal proofs of the goodwill and generosity of our fellow-[44]countrymen, they still preserved a disturbed and sullen expression; their looks were wild and threatening; and in their whole attitude one distinguished an air of constraint, and malevolence, and treachery, which they in vain sought to hide; it seemed as though they were mortified at the failure of their various attacks, (1) while at the same time they dreaded our vengeance. A few days later

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"1. The savages had on several occasions thrown spears at Péron's party, they themselves being hidden in the forest."

116, 562, 431, 609, 201

I had the pleasure of meeting the same woman who has so often been mentioned. I then learnt that her name was Arrà-Màïdà. M. Petit drew her portrait; therein will be noted will be noted that character of assurance and dignity which so eminently distinguished this woman among all her companions' (ch. ii. pp. 250-256)."

116, 431, 185

"During another excursion, says Péron, 'on approaching the bank, we found a very great fire. Round about it, as if strewn by chance, were nearly all the objects which we had given to the aborigines, or which they had stolen from us even at the peril of their lives. We had previously found several other things, spread here and there in the woods, and we were convinced that, having satisfied a childish curiosity these ignorant men, as if embarrassed by our favours, abandoned the object as soon as it ceased to please or amuse them.' (ch. xii. p. 257)."

116, 181, 609, 431

"We have seen how difficult the French discoverers found it to open communication with the natives, nor were they at all singular in this respect. Mortimer, for instance, gives us the following account of an interview (pp. 18-20): 'Our third mate on landing, saw several of them [natives] moving off. He approached them alone and unarmed, making every sign of friendship his fancy could suggest; but though they mimicked his actions exactly, and laughed heartily, he could not prevail upon them to stay. The next morning, as we approached the shore, we observed several natives walking among the trees. When they perceived we had landed, and were pretty near them, they began to chatter very loud and walk away; upon which we called to them, imitating their noise as well as we could, and had the satisfaction to see them stop at a little distance from us. Several of them having long poles or [51] spears in their hands, we made signs to them to throw them aside, with which they immediately complied; and in return we put away our muskets. They now suffered us to come so near them as to take some biscuit, a pen-knife, and other trifles from us; but they took great care to avoid being touched. Some of them, indeed, would not accept of anything unless it was thrown to them; and the whole party kept edging off by degrees. They seemed eager to procure everything they saw; and had a great inclination for our hats. Mr. Cox gave one of them a silk handkerchief, and in return he threw him a fillet of skin which he wore tied round his head. The party which

we saw consisted of about fourteen or fifteen men and women, but there were several more concealed among the trees. Upon the whole, they seemed to us to be a timorous, harmless race of people, and afford a fine picture of human nature in its most rude and uncultivated state. We spent some time in endeavouring to inspire these poor people with confidence; but though they appeared to be very merry, laughing and mimicking our actions, and frequently repeating the words, Warra, Warra, Wai, they kept retiring very fast, and we soon lost them among the trees. Being willing to, if possible, see something more of these singular people, we followed the track they had taken. We saw a smoke on the opposite side of the island, and made all the haste we could to come up with it; but the natives had fled before our arrival.' Bass's experience was very similar:

'Their extreme shyness prevented any communication. As soon as the boat approached the shore, they ran into the woods' (Collins, ch. xv. p. 168)."

1: Roth--52 [2] (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 431, 609

"Their apparent want of curiosity seemed to arouse the astonishment of many of the early explorers and settlers. Anderson remarks (Cook's Third Voy. Bk. I. ch. vi.): 'They received every present we made them without the least appearance of satisfaction,' while Marion's historian reports (pp. 28-29): 'We endeavoured to gain their goodwill by giving them little presents: they rejected with disdain all that we offered them, even iron, looking-glasses, handkerchiefs, and pieces of cloth. We showed them the fowls and ducks which had been brought from the vessel, in order to made them understand that we desired to purchase of them. They took these animals, which they showed they did not know, and threw them angrily away.'"

1: Roth--53 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 201, 431, 609

"... Captain Bligh has the following account of their strange behaviour when he offered them articles which must have been unknown to them before: -- 'The natives not coming near us, I determined to go after them, and we set out, in a boat, towards Cape Frederick Henry.... I found landing impracticable, and therefore came to a grapnel, in hopes of their coming to us.... Soon after we heard their voices like the cackling of geese, and twenty persons came out of the wood, twelve of whom went round to some rocks when the boat could get nearer to the shore than we were. Those who remained behind were women. We approached within twenty yards of them, but there was no possibility of landing, and I could only throw to the shore, tied up in paper, the presents which I intended for them. I showed the different articles as I tied them up, but they would not untie the paper till I made an appearance of leaving them. Then they opened the parcels, and, as they took the articles out, placed them on their heads. On seeing this, I returned towards them, when they instantly put everything out of their hands, and would not appear to take notice of anything that we had given them. After throwing a few more beads and nails on shore, I made signs for them to go to the ship, and they, likewise, made signs for me to land, but as this could not be effected, I left them.... When they first came in sight, they made a prodigious chattering in their speech.... They spoke so quick, that I could not catch one single word they uttered' (pp. 50-51)."

"...Péron's party were much troubled with the thefts committed by the natives. In describing an interview with fourteen savages, he says (ch. xiii. p. 279): 'M. Rouget, to whom we had confided the musket, placed it by his side, keeping it, however, well in view, for fear that some aboriginal would snatch it up and flee with it into the forest; a sort of conduct, with which, with other objects, we had had some experience of in the Channel [D'Entrecasteaux].' We may here mention in parenthesis that there are very few cases of theft brought against the aborigines, as Davies says: 'They do not appear given to pilfering, although instances have occurred.' From this time forth all friendly intercourse between the natives and the Frenchmen was at an end, [59] for, after describing a long, and so far very friendly interview, with fourteen male aborigines, Péron narrates how the sight of a little boat belonging to his [Péron's] vessels, cruising off the shore, threw them into a state of angry terror, in which he had the greatest difficulty to pacify them and to induce them to lay aside their arms. 'Gradually they appeared to become bolder, they spoke among themselves in an excited way; when they looked at us, their expression was gloomier and more savage than it had previously been; they appeared to meditate some violence, but the musket of M. Rouget seemed to restrain them, whether from curiosity or treachery, they worried him every minute to begin shooting the birds in the neighbouring trees, but we judged our position too critical to comply with their request. Their audacity grew with their defiance. One of them wanted my

waistcoat, the bright colours of which had attracted his attention. He had already several times demanded it of me, but I had so positively refused that I did not think he would return to the charge. However, one minute, when I was not paying attention, he seized hold of me by the waistcoat and pointed his spear at me, brandishing it furiously. I pretended to take his threats as a joke, but seizing the point of the lance, turned it aside, and showing him M. Rouget, who had just aimed at him, I said this single word in his language mata (dead); he understood me, and deposited his weapon with the same indifference as if no hostile demonstration against me had escaped him. I had hardly escaped this danger, when I found myself threatened, if not perilously, at least as disagreeably. One of the large gold earrings which I wore excited the desires of another savage, who, without saying anything, slid behind me, cunningly slipped his finger through the ring, and tugged so hard that he would undoubtedly have torn my ear had not the clasp given way. It must be remembered that all these men had been loaded with presents by us; that we had given them mirrors, knives, coloured glass beads, pearls, handkerchiefs, snuff boxes, etc.; that I had stripped myself of nearly all the buttons on my coat, which, being gilt copper, had seemed specially valuable to them on account of their brightness. Further,, it must be recollected that we had lent ourselves to all their desires and caprices, without asking anything in return for our presents, and then one can judge how unjust

and treacherous their conduct towards us was. I can, indeed, positively assert, that, but for M. Rouget and his scarecrow, M. Petit and I should have fallen victims to these fierce men. I must frankly declare that their actions were of such a [60] treacherous and savage nature as quite to shock both myself and my companions; and remembering what had happened to several of our companions in the channel, we came to the conclusion that it was necessary to appear among these people with the means to restrain their ill will or to repulse their attacks. Before leaving, I thought it advisable to bestow upon them fresh evidences of our goodwill: hence I approached the old man, took him affectionately by the hand, gave him a glass bottle, a knife, two gilt buttons, a white handkerchief, etc. The old man seemed the more pleased with these last gifts from the fact of our being about to leave him; he smiled with a contented air, mixed, however, still with something uneasy and savage. Meanwhile M. Petit, who wished to possess a spear, had bought one for a mirror. I myself desired to have a club, and I had already procured one, when the savages, thinking better of it, suddenly seized their weapons afresh, and uttering loud cries all together, they menaced us in such a threatening manner, that M. Rouget, in order to restrain them, was obliged to shout loudly, at the same time taking aim at the one who had shown himself the most furious against me. After this last show of violence there was not a moment to lose in regaining the shore; but fearing that these savages would overwhelm us with stones or spears during our retreat, as they had done

already several times in the channel, we decided to retire very slowly, M. Petit and I walking in front, while M. Rouget followed behind with his musket. These precautions were successful, and we regained the boat without accident. I have thought it proper to give the principal details of this long and perilous interview in order to enable the reader to rightly judge of the extent of the difficulties which arise when travellers communicate with savage races, and how impossible it is to triumph over their natural ferocity and their prejudices against us' (ch. xiii. pp. 283-287)."

116, 609, 431

"The fact was, M. Petit, having sketched several of the savages, the party was preparing to return to the ship, when one of them [savages] threw himself upon the artist in order to take from him the drawings he had just made; upon his trying to defend himself, the savage became furious and took up a log, with which he would have killed our weak companion, if the others had not run to his rescue. Far, however, from seeking to revenge such audacity, they were pleased to shower new presents upon the aggressor, in the hope, no doubt, of calming his fury by such generous conduct, and to gain the goodwill also of his fellow-countrymen; but hardly had these [86] savage men seen our party occupied in re-embarking, than they re-entered the forest, and a moment afterwards there came a shower of stones, one of which struck the Commander in the back, causing a large and painful contusion. Our comrades, in spite of this treachery, did not wish to cease being magnanimous. It was in vain that the savages exposed themselves to their shots, by provoking them from the top of the bank they had just quitted; vainly they brandished their spears and multiplied their threatening gestures; not a single shot was fired at them. "These last hostilities," says our botanist, M. Leschenault, "were committed by the aborigines without our having given them the slightest provocation; on the contrary, we had loaded them with presents and kindnesses, and nothing in our conduct could have offended them." ... The morning after the attack I have just spoken of, Captain

Hamelin started in his yawl to reconnoitre the bank, and approached sufficiently near to observe what was going on. It seemed that the event of the previous day had made the savages uneasy, or that they intended to attack us should we descend on their shores; for the Captain saw thirty-six men marching along the shore, in squads of five or six individuals, one in each group of which carried a bundle of spears; and at the head of this little army a man, with a flaming brand in his hand, set fire at intervals to the brushwood which covered the ground. Did this precaution seem necessary to them for observing us from a distance, or to take away from us the means of hiding ourselves and surprising them? ' (Ch. xii. pp. 237-239)"